

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 17-27 are pending in this file wrapper continuation-in-part application. By this preliminary amendment, the lower range of calcium sulfate beta-hemihydrate, the upper range of Portland cement, and the upper range of pozzolanic aggregate in compositions according to the invention as disclosed in the specification and recited in independent claims 1, 17, and 23 have been broadened. The calcium sulfate beta-hemihydrate lower range has been changed from about 30 wt.% to about 20 wt.%; the Portland cement range has been increased from about 40 wt.% to about 50 wt.%; and the pozzolanic aggregate range has been increased from about 40 wt.% to about 50 wt.%. Also, the specification and these claims have been amended to include the use of particular cement blends in compositions according to the invention.

The specification also has been amended to more fully describe the properties of the Portland cement, silica fume, and pozzolanic aggregate filler components according to the invention.

A new Example 4 has been added illustrating the density, wet compressive strength and durability of a composition according to the invention. A composition for making boards utilizing the master blend binder disclosed in Example 4 also is disclosed.

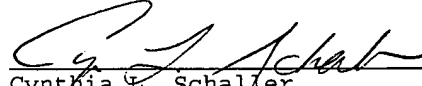
Finally, minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 27. Several of the amendments were suggested by the examiner during an April 25, 1996 phone conference held with respect to the parent application U.S. Serial No. 08/384,756 (followed by an official action dated May 28, 1996).

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing  
or any matter of form in an effort to advance this  
application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the  
undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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